

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 16, 2018

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held on Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 1:19 p.m. at the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) office.

Chairman Bill Long announced a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Long - Chairman, Howard "Bub" Miller – Vice Chairman, Carl McClure, Kevin Karney, Dallas May, and Jim Broderick

OTHERS PRESENT:

State Senator Larry Crowder; Curt Thompson and Tim Volz, AECOM; Tom McClernan and Jason Meyer, GMS Inc.; Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates; Lee Miller, SECWCD General Counsel; and Leann Noga and Chris Woodka, SECWCD staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Bill Long confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the August 1, 2017 minutes, and if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Carl McClure moved, seconded by Bub Miller, to approve the minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

Prior to the meeting, Committee members discussed potential action by the Colorado Legislature with Senator Crowder. No action was taken.

The New Concept Technical and Costing Report (Report) and Arkansas Valley Feasibility Project Cost Summary Report (Summary) were discussed. The Summary projected a cost of \$640 million to construct the AVC. The Report used the same cost factors (as interpreted by District staff) to determine there would be a \$30.4 million cost savings by using Pueblo Water's system, rather than building a new water line south of Pueblo.

Jim Broderick explained that the two documents are needed to determine the cost savings.

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Bill Long asked if there would be additional savings in costs.

Chris Woodka said the Report details the possibilities of other savings, but most importantly the savings of time in reaching the first participants. Christine Arbogast and Mr. Broderick added that contingency costs would be reduced as AVC construction began, and that fewer appropriations would be needed.

Ms. Arbogast asked if there is written approval from the Bureau of Reclamation for the New Concept. Mr. Broderick said there is a written document from Reclamation that also indicates approval, if the Colorado Department of Health and Pueblo Water provide written comments. Those letters are not in hand, but the District believes it received a “go” from the “go/no go” study.

The District has begun discussing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Mr. McClure and Mr. Woodka talked about how the need for the AVC is becoming more pressing because of deteriorating water systems in Crowley County and Boone.

Mr. Woodka and Mr. Broderick reported on preliminary discussions with Pueblo Water staff on how much it could potentially cost for contracting for capacity and Operation, Maintenance and Repair (OM&R) costs.

Mr. Broderick explained the AVC has a new project manager in Reclamation, Sam Braverman. Mr. Woodka and Kevin Meador met with Mr. Braverman on Friday, August 10, 2018.

The Committee discussed the \$2 million “plus-up” funding Reclamation received from Congress to study “Regionalization.” The District has started to define what Regionalization is, defining several “hubs” in the Lower Arkansas Valley.

Committee members discussed how participants have resisted working with neighboring systems in the past. Mr. Long said participants should accept the AVC proposal, and if they cannot, they need to submit alternative plans to the state. Committee members conceded there are no better alternatives. Mr. Long said the Lower Arkansas has already regionalized landfills.

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Mr. Broderick said more discussions are needed to develop a plan to communicate to Congress, the state, and participants to describe how the AVC has changed and what the project looks like now.

The Committee also reviewed District staff's projection for funding needs to reach La Junta. Ms. Arbogast said the information will be helpful in making funding requests to Congress.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

NEXT MEETING

Not determined

ADJOURN

Chairman Bill Long adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka,
Issues Management Program Coordinator